

OPINION

Good news is here!

By DAVID BAUM

There are, contrary to other opinions, many good events happening in and around Carbondale right now.

While those of us in the newspaper business have been critical of certain events that have taken place in the city lately, we wouldn't be doing our job right if we didn't also inform our readers about the good news occurring in the Carbondale area right now.

First, the people who live in and around Carbondale are good news in themselves. The first quality I noticed about area residents was their friendliness. Many people take for granted saying "Hello" on the street to a complete stranger or a friend and smiling in today's age of many worries. It is nice to know anyone walking on any Carbondale street can usually get a response from another person just by saying "Hi" and smiling -- that is, if the other person doesn't say it first!!

In other cities and towns the atmosphere is cold and uncaring; this isn't true in the Carbondale area. Friendliness can be seen all over the city as people stop to talk to each other in stores, on the streets, in churches or any bank or eatery. The familiar "What's doin'?" can be heard all over the city night and day.

Along with this friendliness is a willingness to donate money and time to help a worthwhile cause. This was witnessed most recently in the drive to repair and restore the city's large tower clock in city hall. Many people responded so quickly and gave \$1, \$5, \$10 and even \$100 in donations that in only three months the needed \$3,000 was raised and the repairs completed last week. With this kind of support those involved in the restoration effort know the local residents (present and former) are backing their huge effort to make city hall once

again the pillar of pride in the community.

Another big and important example was the MICU drive, which took a large amount of time, money and effort from many local people and organizations to bring the needed emergency health care not only to the Carbondale area, but the whole Upper Valley.

The many volunteers who help the YMCA, Meals on Wheels, the new Boy Scout troop, Cub Scouts, booster clubs, many church and other organizations prove there is a friendly and willing attitude instilled in the hearts and minds of area residents.

Local high schools have positive scholastic and athletic achievements going for them some areas don't have. The past few years local high school sports teams have won many titles and may hopefully win a few more this year. Many students have been recognized for their academic skills by winning scholarships to colleges and awards for classroom work.

In the business sector, a change has begun towards improvement with Glass Products Inc. moving into town and already growing. Several other small businesses and stores have opened up and are likewise progressing. And the possibility of attracting more business is becoming more of a reality everyday.

Although we have mentioned only a few items about what is good news in Carbondale this week, we will continue to expand on this theme for our readers in the coming issues.

Why?

Because good news is happening right now in Carbondale and the local area besides the not-so-good news. And our readers deserve to know about them. Just take the time to look and think and you'll find it. We know we will.